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A BLUNDER IN NOMENCLATURE.

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Among the synonyms of *Neckera complanata* we find *Eleutera ornithopodioides* Stuntz. Mr. S. C. Stuntz established this combination (Torrey Bulletin, Vol. 27, April, 1900), because *Hypnum complanatum* L. as published in 1763 was superseded by *Hypnum ornithopodioides* Scop. 1760.

This conclusion was based upon quite false premises.

At first sight those acquainted with the early literature of the subject will consider it suspicious that a binary name was used by Scopoli in 1760. In the first edition of his *Flora Carniolica* issued that year, he had not yet accepted the Linnean nomenclature; it is only in the second edition (that of 1772) that he employs binary names. In fact, by examining the two editions, it proves that the name *Hypnum ornithopodioides* is not to be found in the first of them, but in the second there is described on page 320 an *Hypnum ornithopodioides* for which he quotes as synonym *Hypnum fronde subpinnata ramosa, foliis pellucidis acutis planis* Fl. Carn. ed. I, p. 150. This species is not, in ed. I, designated by any binary name; the latter dates consequently from 1772. It is possible that this *Hypnum ornithopodioides* is really *H. complanatum* L., as Bridel indicates, nothing in the imperfect description preventing this supposition. But this identity does not appear from the synonyms quoted by Scopoli, among which one of Dillenius's and one of Linne's refer to an exotic plant which is *Rhacopilum tomentosum* according to other authors.

Thus, apart from the circumstance that *Hypnum ornithopodioides* Scop. 1772, is antedated by *H. ornithopodioides* L. 1753 and *H. ornithopodioides* Huds. 1762, the illicitness of rejecting the name *complanatum* and substituting that of *ornithopodioides* is sufficiently pointed out. But the situation becomes still more unfavorable for Mr. Stuntz when taking into consideration the fact that *H. complanatum* L. was published not only in 1763, but already in 1753, in the first of edition *Species Plantarum*.

Mr. Stuntz quotes:

Hypnum ornithopodioides Scop. Fl. Carn. p. 104 (1760).

Hypnum complanatum L. Sp. Pl. p. 1588 (1763) instead of *Hypnum complanatum* L. Sp. Pl., ed. I, p. 1123 (1753).

Hypnum fronde subpinnata ramosa, foliis pellucidis acutis planis Scop. Fl. Carn., ed. I, p. 150 (1760).

Hypnum ornithopodioides (nec. L. nec. Huds.) Scop. Fl. Carn., ed. 2, II, p. 329 (1772). (The last two on the authority of Bridel).

The moral of this is to avoid second-hand quotations. Precaution is especially needed in using the early literature, which teems with incorrect quotations; when using it uncritically, that is, without going back to the originals, it is easy to compromise one's self.

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